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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to State, local, and Tribal public health departments to train and equip Federal public health reserve corps personnel to assist with testing, contact tracing, and treatment of COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FUDGE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to State, local, and Tribal public health departments to train and equip Federal public health reserve corps personnel to assist with testing, contact tracing, and treatment of COVID–19, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pandemic Community
5 Reserve and Public Health Response Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO INCREASE FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH**
2 **RESERVE CORPS PERSONNEL.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health
5 and Human Services shall—

6 (1) award grants to State, local, and Tribal
7 public health departments to train and equip public
8 health and medical personnel to serve as Federal
9 public health reserve corps personnel to assist with
10 testing, contact tracing, and treatment of COVID—
11 19;

12 (2) reactivate retired personnel of any such
13 corps to assist with such testing, contact tracing,
14 and treatment of COVID–19; and

15 (3) in consultation with the Secretary of Labor,
16 award grants to local workforce development boards
17 established under section 107 of the Workforce In-
18 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3122) to
19 develop transition plans (including career exposure,
20 career planning, and career pathways) and transfer-
21 able credits and certifications for Federal public
22 health reserve corps personnel to pursue further
23 service in a health-related career.

24 (b) FUNDS.—A State, local, or Tribal health depart-
25 ment that receives a grant under this section may use
26 funds received through the grant awarded under sub-

1 section (a)(1) to establish partnerships with medical train-
2 ing and public health programs, such as medical schools,
3 nursing schools, respiratory therapy programs, and com-
4 munity-based organizations, to recruit individuals to serve
5 as Federal public health reserve corps personnel.

6 (c) PRIORITY.—In establishing partnerships under
7 subsection (b), a State, local, or Tribal health department
8 that receives a grant under this section shall give priority
9 to institutions eligible to receive funding under section 371
10 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q).

11 (d) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Health and Human
12 Services shall establish, in consultation with the Secretary
13 of Defense, a national training program (in digital and
14 in-person formats) for individuals serving as Federal pub-
15 lic health reserve corps personnel with respect to respond-
16 ing to COVID–19, including necessary surge capacity and
17 activation on short notice in local communities, including
18 hot spot areas with 100 or more COVID–19 hospital ad-
19 missions. Any certification received for completion of any
20 such training shall not supersede any training required
21 under State law for public health personnel.

22 (e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
23 on which the emergency period (as defined in section
24 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
25 1320b–5((g)(1)(B)) ends, and annually thereafter, the

1 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to
2 the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
3 of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Edu-
4 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the
5 state of the Federal public health reserve corps, includ-
6 ing—

7 (1) the rate of participation by members of ra-
8 cial and ethnic minority groups in such corps;

9 (2) specific occupations of corps personnel;

10 (3) careers attained after service in the corps;

11 and

12 (4) specific recommendations on the amount of
13 funding necessary for successful deployment of Fed-
14 eral heath reserve corps personnel during public
15 health emergencies.

16 (f) FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESERVE CORP.—In
17 this section, the term “Federal public health reserve
18 corps” includes—

19 (1) Federal public health and medical personnel
20 under the authority of the Secretary, including the
21 Ready Reserve Corps, the Regular Corps, the Na-
22 tional Disaster Medical System, the Medical Reserve
23 Corps, and the Emergency System for Advance Reg-
24 istration of Volunteer Health Professionals;

(2) personnel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency appointed under section 306(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5149);

(3) personnel of the Pandemic Community Reserve Corps; and

7 (4) members of the National Guard.

8 (g) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
9 “State” has the meaning given that term in section 101
10 of title 38, United States Code.

11 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$25,000,000,000 to remain available until expended.

14 SEC. 3. GRANTS TO ESTABLISH PANDEMIC COMMUNITY RE-
15 SERVE CORPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall award grants to State, local, and Tribal public health departments to establish and operate a Pandemic Community Reserve Corps within the jurisdiction of such State, local, or Tribal public health department for the purposes of—

1 (1) increasing diversity in recruitment of re-
2 serve corps personnel;

3 (2) ensuring a locally-sourced public health
4 workforce to supplement the existing State and fed-
5 eral public health infrastructure; and

6 (3) assisting with testing, contact tracing, and
7 treatment of COVID–19.

8 (b) CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services shall, as a condition on the receipt of a
10 grant under this section, require that a State, local, or
11 Tribal public health department that receives a grant
12 under this section—

13 (1) requires that personnel of the Pandemic
14 Community Reserve Corps complete training under
15 the national program established under section 1(d);
16 and

17 (2) in establishing and operating a Pandemic
18 Community Reserve Corps, gives priority to dis-
19 located workers, the underemployed, youth, veterans,
20 and individuals with barriers to employment.

21 (c) REPORTS.—

22 (1) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than
23 1 year after the date on which the first grant is
24 awarded under this section, and annually thereafter,
25 each State, local, and Tribal public health depart-

1 ment receiving such a grant shall submit to the Sec-
2 retary of Health and Human Services a report on
3 the state of the Pandemic Community Reserve Corps
4 within the jurisdiction of such State, local, or Tribal
5 public health department, including—

6 (A) the rate of participation by members of
7 racial and ethnic minority groups in such corps;

8 (B) specific occupations of corps personnel;

9 (C) careers attained after service in the
10 corps; and

11 (D) specific recommendations on the
12 amount of funding necessary for successful de-
13 ployment of Pandemic Community Reserve
14 Corps personnel during public health emer-
15 gencies.

16 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
17 year after the date on which the emergency period
18 (as defined in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social
19 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5((g)(1)(B))) ends,
20 and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and
21 Human Services shall submit to the Committee on
22 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
23 tives and the Committee on Health, Education,
24 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the
25 state of the Pandemic Community Reserve Corps re-

1 ceiving funding pursuant to this section, including
2 the information specified in each of subparagraphs
3 (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).

4 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) LOCALLY-SOURCED.—The term “locally-
6 sourced” means, with respect to personnel of a Pan-
7 demic Community Reserve Corps established pursu-
8 ant to subsection (a), individuals residing within the
9 community or communities served by that Pandemic
10 Community Reserve Corps that reflect the diversity
11 of such community or communities.

12 (2) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
13 ing given that term in section 101 of title 38, United
14 States Code.

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
17 \$50,000,000,000 to remain available until expended.